



## **Release Highlights: September 19, 2005**

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### **MONTANA**

#### **Construction, 2002 Economic Census, Geographic Area Series**

<http://ceic.mt.gov/EconCen.htm>

Construction firms in Montana tend to be small, with 70% of them employing 1 – 4 workers and 74% with a business value of less than \$500,000. In lieu of Montana's weather, 82% of all construction workers were employed in August while only 66% were employed in March in 2002.

Over 56% of Montana's construction establishments provide specialty trade skills, such as masonry, roofing, plumbing, and drywall. Nearly 12,000 employees in the Specialty Trade Contractor subsector of the Construction sector earned \$305 million in pay in 2002 and added \$702 million in value to the industry in 2002.

Residential Construction was an \$863 million business in 2002, employed 4,543 workers and accounted for 26% of the \$3.37 billion Construction industry. Highway, Street and Bridge Construction may only employ 1,722 of the 22,506 construction workers, however this subsector spent over \$24 million in capital expenditures, the largest of any subsector.

In 2002, substantial revisions were made to the entire construction sector. Consequently, comparisons between 1997 and 2002 reports cannot be performed.

The Construction sector (sector 23) comprises establishments primarily engaged in the construction of buildings or engineering projects (e.g., highways and utility systems). Establishments primarily engaged in the preparation of sites for new construction and establishments primarily engaged in subdividing land for sale as buildings sites, are also included in this sector.

The three new subsectors in 2002 are (1) Construction of Buildings; (2) Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction and (3) Specialty Trade Contractors. Additionally, this sector now includes several mining industries, such as oil and gas pipeline and related structures construction and site preparation activities on a contract or fee basis. Lastly, in the 1987 – 1997 censuses, the value of construction work was collected to measure actual construction activity during those years. Studies have shown that respondents were not able to accurately report this data. In 2002, receipts, billings or sales for construction work were collected.

### **CONTACT**

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